



Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Mrs Ellen LAU, ACA Secretariat

AIDS Hotline: 2780 2211

IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE

- A Summary of the 79th ACA Meeting.....pages 37-40
- Agenda of 80th ACA Meeting.....page 40

~ Calendar ~

**80th ACA Meeting
5 October 2012**

A Summary of the 79th ACA Meeting held on 29 June 2012

HIV prevalence and risk behavioural survey of men who have sex with men 2011 (PRiSM)

Members noted that the third round of PRiSM, commissioned to the Stanley Ho School of Public Health team of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), had been conducted from May 2011 to February 2012. New survey components included –

- an internet component iPRiSM (survey conducted through internet) in addition to the venue-based surveillance;
- assessment of participants' sexually transmitted infection (STI) related prevalence, risk behaviours and access to services; and
- a result delivery system through which participants could access their own HIV/STI results if desired.

Members were also briefed on the objectives, methods and major findings of the 2011 PRiSM as well as some selected items of these three rounds of survey for comparison. The meeting generally agreed that taking into account the increasing trend of young MSM, more attention should be placed on the teenage target group in future PRiSM surveys.

HIV self-testing with kits purchased through the internet was discussed but opinions were divided regarding their reliability and desirability. It was concluded that this issue would have to be further examined with technical advice and stakeholders input.

to be continued.....

Report of the 25th Meeting of the Community Forum on AIDS

Members were briefed on the major discussion of the 25th CFA Meeting held on 14 June 2012 (and a summary of this CFA Meeting was given in the ACA Newsfile issued in August 2012).

A Summary of the 24th SCAS Meeting

A summary of the 24th Meeting of the SCAS held on 3 April 2012 was tabled at the meeting and the Chairperson went through the summary with the members.

ACA Annual Report (2009/10)

Hard copies of the ACA Annual Report (2009/10) were ready in early June 2012 and the reports were sent out to the relevant parties by the ACA Secretariat shortly afterwards.

Research findings on teenage MSM sexual risk and behavioural patterns and its implications

Members noted that a study had been conducted by The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (BGCA) and CUHK from mid-June to early August 2011 through online recruitment of homosexual males aged between 13 and 21. The findings of the study were as follows -

- (a) the mean ages of feeling homosexual orientation and initiating sex were 12.7 and 13.9 respectively;
- (b) fewer respondents used condom consistently with both regular and non-regular sex partners and had history of ever or recent HIV test as compared to older MSM found in other local surveys;
- (c) more respondents were involved in selling sex and had STI symptoms as compared to older MSM found in other local surveys;
- (d) 17% had one or more self-harm behaviours such as cutting and 19% had suicidal ideation because of his own sexual orientation; and
- (e) gay friends and school mates were the most important support network.

Discussion was made on the importance of early sex education in junior secondary schools in view of the scenario of younger MSM and HIV risk behaviours ; the desirability of promoting AIDS education to parents as well; and the need to step up testing efforts. Since the HIV knowledge of the young MSM was already quite high, more emphasis should be placed on behavior modification and not just information giving. The meeting generally agreed that a Task Force should be set up to further examine the issue on promoting life skills-based HIV education in schools *(For more details, please refer to the Terms of Reference as well as the Membership List of the Task Force shown on next page).*

Update on universal antenatal HIV screening and mother-to-child HIV prevention in Hong Kong

Members noted that the Universal Antenatal HIV Testing Programme (UATP) was introduced in public service in September 2001 and the practice was soon followed by the private sector. Progress of the implementation of the programme was regularly monitored. Clinical recommendations on preventing mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV were first made by the former Scientific Committee of AIDS (SCA) in 2001 with a subsequent updated version in 2007. To keep pace with time and the latest scientific evidence, the Scientific Committee of AIDS & STI (SCAS) revisited the local guidelines in April 2012.

Members were also briefed on the performance of UATP and Rapid HIV Testing up to 31 December 2011, as well as the 2012 update on “Recommended Clinical Guidelines on the Prevention of Perinatal HIV Transmission” by SCAS.

Members were informed that even if the late presenting mothers were HIV infected, the standard precautions provided adequate infection control against HIV and other blood borne pathogens in such health care settings.

Task Force for Development of life skills-based education on HIV/AIDS and sexual health in secondary schools in Hong Kong

Terms of Reference

- To advise on the administrative and technical guidance required for encouraging and supporting whole-school implementation of life skills-based HIV education
- To advise on the planning of a multi-sectoral seminar for enhancing the awareness of stakeholders on HIV and sexual health of students in secondary schools
- To advise on the planning and result dissemination of a survey on the implementation of life skills-based HIV education in junior secondary level of schools

Membership List

Convener

Prof YU Chung-toi, Samuel ACA

Members

Mr CHOI Kim-wah, Cliff ACA

Dr LAW Yi-shu, Louise ACA

Mr LEUNG Wing-yee, James ACA

Mr WONG Doon-yee, Charles ACA

Mr YAU Lam-yip EDB

Miss CHOW Fung-ping, Cyna SWD

Secretariat

Dr LEUNG Wai-man, Raymond DH

Dr SHU Bo-yee DH

more about the 79th ACA Meeting

XIX International AIDS Conference

Members noted that the XIX International AIDS Conference would be held in Washington, USA from 22 to 27 July 2012 and ATF had approved sponsorship for the ACA Chairperson and a member of the Red Ribbon Centre Management Advisory Committee (RRCMAC). The Chairperson would take part in the Report Back Seminar of the AIDS Conference to share her experience with the local AIDS workers on 7 September 2012.

Hong Kong Symposium on HIV/AIDS 2012

ACA would support the Hong Kong Symposium on HIV/AIDS 2012 organized by the HKU AIDS Institute on 13 November 2012. A draft meeting proposal was tabled for members' reference.

FPAHK Youth Sexuality Survey 2011

The Family Planning Association of Hong Kong (FPA) had held two press conferences to release findings of its Youth Sexuality Study 2011 and the relevant press releases were tabled for members' reference.



80th ACA Meeting

Date : 5 October 2012 (Friday)

Time : 2:30pm

Venue : Conference Room, Department of Health, 21/F Wu Chung House, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Three main items on the Agenda -

- Review on specific areas pertaining to HIV infection and health care workers – by Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Health Care Workers
- ACA Recommended Guidelines on HIV infection and health care workers – an Update to the 2003 print version [draft]
- A Report on the XIX International AIDS Conference at Washington DC, USA during the period from 22 to 27 July 2012